

CONSERVATIVE THINKERS AND IMMIGRATION EXPERTS ON CONGRESS’ IMMIGRATION PLANS

National Review editorial, January 27, 2014: “For now, nothing worth having can pass the Democratic Senate or get signed into law by President Obama. Rank-and-file conservatives in the House should firmly reject the course that their leadership wants to take, and convince it to reconsider.”

Bill Kristol and Rich Lowry joint op-ed, July 9, 2013: “The last thing low-skilled native and immigrant workers already here should have to deal with is wage-depressing competition from newly arriving workers. Nor is the new immigration under the bill a panacea for the long-term fiscal ills of entitlements, as often argued, because those programs are redistributive and most of the immigrants will be low-income workers.”

W. James Antle III op-ed, January 27, 2014: “Increasing legal immigration and adding business-friendly guest-worker programs on top of that may be one way to address the lowest labor force participation rate since 1978—but [it is] not the best approach for American workers.”

Victor Davis Hanson op-ed, June 18, 2013: “The elites simply turn a blind eye to out-of-work Americans, the low wages of illegal laborers, and the cynicism of using up human capital and letting the state pick up the subsequent social costs.”

Laura Ingraham, July 10, 2013: “Some folks in the GOP establishment are determined to work with Democrats to support an ineffective bill that would lead to more illegal immigrants, lower wages, and higher unemployment. Most Republicans in the Senate opposed this bill, as do most conservative commentators and virtually all members of the GOP in the House.”

Peter Kirsanow (U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner) op-ed, June 11, 2013: “History shows that granting such legal status [to illegal immigrants] is not without profound and substantial costs to American workers. Does Congress care?”

Thomas Sowell op-ed, June 11, 2013: “Virtually every kind of ‘work that Americans will not do’ is in fact work that Americans have done for generations. In many cases, most of the people doing that work today are Americans.”

Bill Kristol op-ed, July 15, 2013: “[The Senate bill contains] huge increase in immigration in that bill, two to three times the number of immigrants over the next decade as over the last decade. And that is bad for working class and middle class wages and economic opportunity in this country. And I think that’s something Republicans need to get serious about.”

National Review editorial, June 17, 2013: “The creation of a large population of second-class workers is undesirable from the point of view of the American national interest, which

should be our guiding force in this matter... The United States is a nation with an economy, not an economy with a nation.”

Investor's Business Daily editorial, January 27, 2014: “For the GOP, the only immigration measure that belongs on the agenda this year is securing the border, a national security priority that need not be accompanied by amnesty or anything else.”

David Frum op-ed, March 11, 2013: “The immigration debate is often premised on the assumption that high wages for American workers are a problem to be overcome.”

Rich Lowry op-ed, Jan 10, 2014 : “The letter to President Obama organized by Representative Mo Brooks and signed by more than a dozen of his colleagues, including Arkansas Senate candidate Tom Cotton is exactly the case Republicans should be making, as the Chamber and other business interests line up behind importing as many cheap workers into the country as possible.”

Hugh Hewitt op-ed, January 27, 2014: “The Senate immigration bill ignited fury among conservatives not because it was proposing regularization but because it was again absurdly silly about border security with a laundry list of stuff no one asked for and yet no serious provisions for a long, strong fence.”

John Fund op-ed, April 5, 2013: “Team Obama’s backup plan may be that if they can’t sucker enough Republicans into backing a bad bill, they can sabotage the final product, see it collapse, and then have a political cudgel to bash Republicans as both insensitive to Hispanics and dismissive of their conservative base. Then, the theory goes, Democrats could win back control of the House in the 2014 elections and pass an immigration bill of their own without messy compromises.”

Rush Limbaugh, June 21, 2013: “Members of the House can say and promise anything. We have a president and we have courts who don’t care what the law says. Has President Obama shown any evidence of fidelity to existing immigration law? The answer is no.”

Bill Kristol op-ed, February 2014 Issue: “Bringing immigration to the floor insures a circular GOP firing squad... With respect to immigration reform, which isn’t must-pass, leadership should let it die. The guiding principle should be do no harm.”

Tucker Carlson, December 4, 2012: “Does the United States need massive new numbers of the low-skilled immigrants in a post-industrial economy? Is that good for the United States?”

Byron York column, September 11, 2013: “At the same time [some] corporate officers seek higher numbers of immigrants, both low-skill and high-skill, many of their companies are laying off thousands of workers.”

Ross Douthat column, February 1, 2014: “A reasonable immigration compromise would... privilege high-skilled immigration over low-skilled immigration, given the unemployment

crisis among low-skilled native workers and the larger social crisis that threatens to slow assimilation and upward mobility alike. But the House leadership seems to favor an approach that would create... looser labor markets, continued wage stagnation and fewer jobs for the existing unemployed.”

Kenneth Palinkas (head of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services employees’ union) letter to Congress, July 30, 2013: “I cannot stress enough how ill-equipped USCIS is to engage in the sort of far-reaching plans before Congress right now—including both the enormous legalization programs proposed as well as the historic increases in both immigrant and non-immigrant visas.”

Chris Crane (head of Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers’ union) letter to President Obama, February 11, 2013: “We are given directions, both verbal and written, that prevent us from being able to arrest those who are in clear violation of the law and who may even pose a threat to public safety... Until these concerns are resolved, I fear that any enforcement mechanisms in a future immigration bill will, like the laws already on the books, not be enforced.”

Reihan Salam column, January 31, 2014: “A new Republican jobs bill... has the potential to unite GOP lawmakers and demonstrate that the party hasn’t forgotten the Americans left behind by our lackluster recovery. It should take precedent over a Republican immigration bill, which would divide conservatives — and strengthen the president’s hand.”

Phyllis Schlafly op-ed, October 29, 2013: “The current level of legal immigration to America adds thousands of people every day whose views and experience are contrary to the conservative value of limited government.”

David Frum op-ed, February 4, 2014: “Many business leaders argue that the United States needs to attract more highly skilled immigrants. But do the arithmetic, and you’ll see that Schumer-Rubio will continue to hold the door widely open to the least skilled... Immigration does more than recruit the country’s future workforce. It shapes the country’s society and determines the country’s future electorate. A pro-poverty and pro-inequality immigration policy means that the America of the 2040s will have more poverty and inequality to deal with, one [way] or another.”